

The Library building looks fine to me. What's really needed at our Library?

A typical day in the Children's Room

MORE SPACE...

The Children's Room is terribly small.

Public Computer Area



- While children's books constitute more than 50% of all the items checked out by patrons, the Children's room has only 1/16th of all the public space in the library.

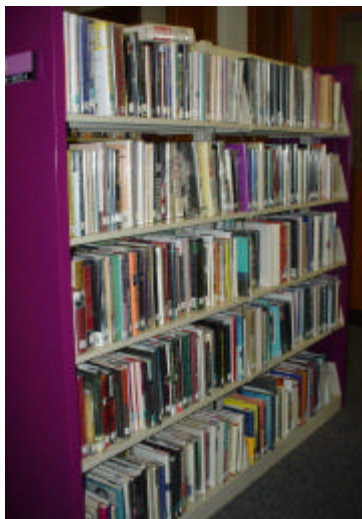


The public computer area is also cramped.

- Patron use of public computers is growing each year, yet this cramped space "created" out of an aisle, can't accommodate more computers. We currently have only 8 public computers that are used over 1,000 times per month!

The Young Adult room is also too small to meet the demand.

- Housed in the front room of the Howe building, it's so undersized that we had to provide some extra space for teens, so we've set aside the Mezzanine room for teens every day after school & evenings. But this space is neither handicap accessible nor easily supervised. And allocating this space for teens makes one less room available for community groups and associations to use.



Overfilled Book Shelves

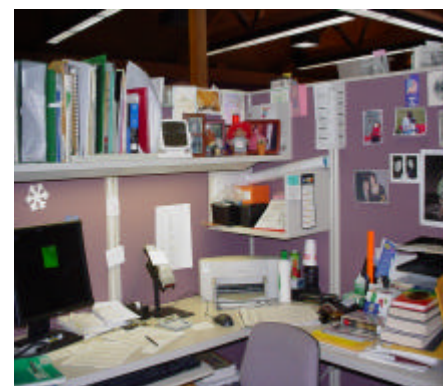
There's also insufficient space for collections.

- Shelving is so limited that in most areas there's a de facto policy that for each book added one must be removed.
- The fiction collection shelves are so overstuffed that we've moved "classic" fiction titles down to the non-fiction room.
- The arrangement of the collection is so confusing that patrons often leave without finding material they desired.

Space for Library staff is also a major problem.

Circulation Administrator's "Office"

- The Assistant Director's office was created with 6 foot high partitions in a corner of the non-fiction room in the basement.
- The Main Desk which was designed for a few librarians checking books in and out, now houses the "office" for our Library Circulation Administrator, set up right in the middle of the work area at the Circulation desk, hampering workflow and staff serving patrons.



- The Main Desk now serves more than double the staff the space was designed for – staff who are managing a volume of interactions and materials, equipment and computers that were never considered in the original design. The space is overwhelmed.

And storage space is almost unheard of...

- Library supplies, program materials, even less frequently used books are stored in the wet unfinished basement.

Storage for books, program supplies, etc. in damp unfinished basement



RESOLVE BUILDING PROBLEMS...

- The windows in the slanted roof of the new addition constantly leak in bad weather. Costly replacement of the whole skylight structure is the only permanent fix available.

Buckets catching leaks in “new building”



Pooled water below electrical panel in mechanical room

- The junction of the roofs between the 1903 and 1980 buildings has consistently shown leaking and moisture problems.
- There are leaks in the elevator and mechanical rooms.
- There's moisture in the lower level of the both sections of the building, even with dehumidifiers the moisture can't be sufficiently controlled.
- During heavy rains you can find our custodian using the extracting machine to take water out of the wet carpets.
- The “Band Aid approach” to building repairs is costly and ineffective



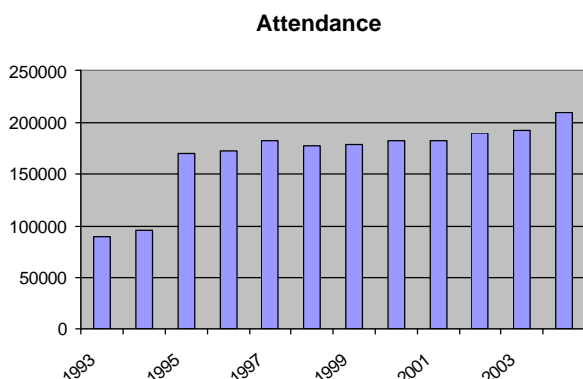
Custodian drying rugs on a rainy day

ADDRESS ACCESSIBILITY CONCERNS...

- The elevator does not meet current access and building codes. A large mechanized wheelchair can barely fit but not turn inside the current elevator.
- The meeting room on the Mezzanine level is completely inaccessible to individuals with mobility handicaps. As noted earlier, this meeting space doubles as a teen area afternoons and evenings, but it would be impossible for a teen using a wheelchair to visit this area.



MEET GROWING DEMAND...

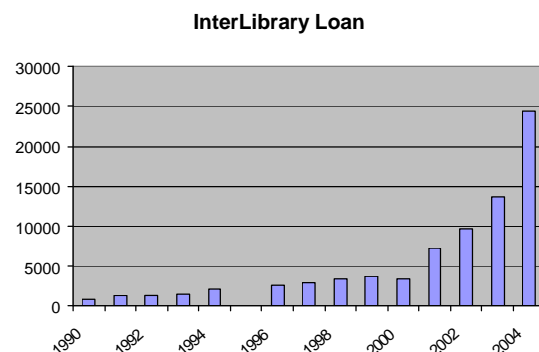


Library usage is growing by leaps and bounds. The major indicators show incredible growth:

- Circulation of books, videos, magazines, etc. is up 60% since 1990.
- Library attendance (or visits to the library) has grown by 135% in that same period. Library patrons see the library as a destination, a place to spend time with children,

reading newspapers and magazines in the Borgatti rooms, using Internet computers, ...

- Inter-library loan activity has grown by 250% in the past decade.
- On a typical day, approximately 1,500 to 2,000 people enter your library – and staff handle 2,000 to 3,000 items at the Main Desk. The building was never designed to handle this kind of demand and usage.



WHAT'S THE SOLUTION THAT'S BEING PROPOSED?

- A complete renovation and restoration of the original 1903 and 1922 portions of the building, demolition of the modern portion, to be replaced by a 32,000 square foot addition (*Please see the Floor Plan Drawings below for more details*)
- Reconfiguration of the parking lot to add more spaces
- Updating and repair of all building systems (roofs, drainage, HVAC, etc.)
- A building that will serve the community for decades to come
- A building that provides adequate workspace so that staff can effectively serve patrons
- A building that will be eligible for state construction grant
- A building that can meet the varied needs of residents of all ages, children, teens, adults, seniors...

WHAT IS THE COST OF THE PROJECT?

- The estimated cost of the complete project, including demolition, construction, moving and rental costs for a temporary site, landscaping, contingencies and escalation is \$12,990,534.
 - The Board of Trustees has committed to raise \$1,750,000 through a fund raising campaign to support the project.
 - They have also committed \$125,000 of Library State Aid Funding to the project.
 - The Town and Library Trustees have already spent \$81,500 for the schematic designs and site studies.
 - The state construction grant is projected to be \$3,484,773
 - This means that the town's share of the project will be \$7,549,261.
- A rough estimate of the cost to the average homeowner for the local share of the project would be approximately \$30 per year, based on spreading the costs over a twenty year period.

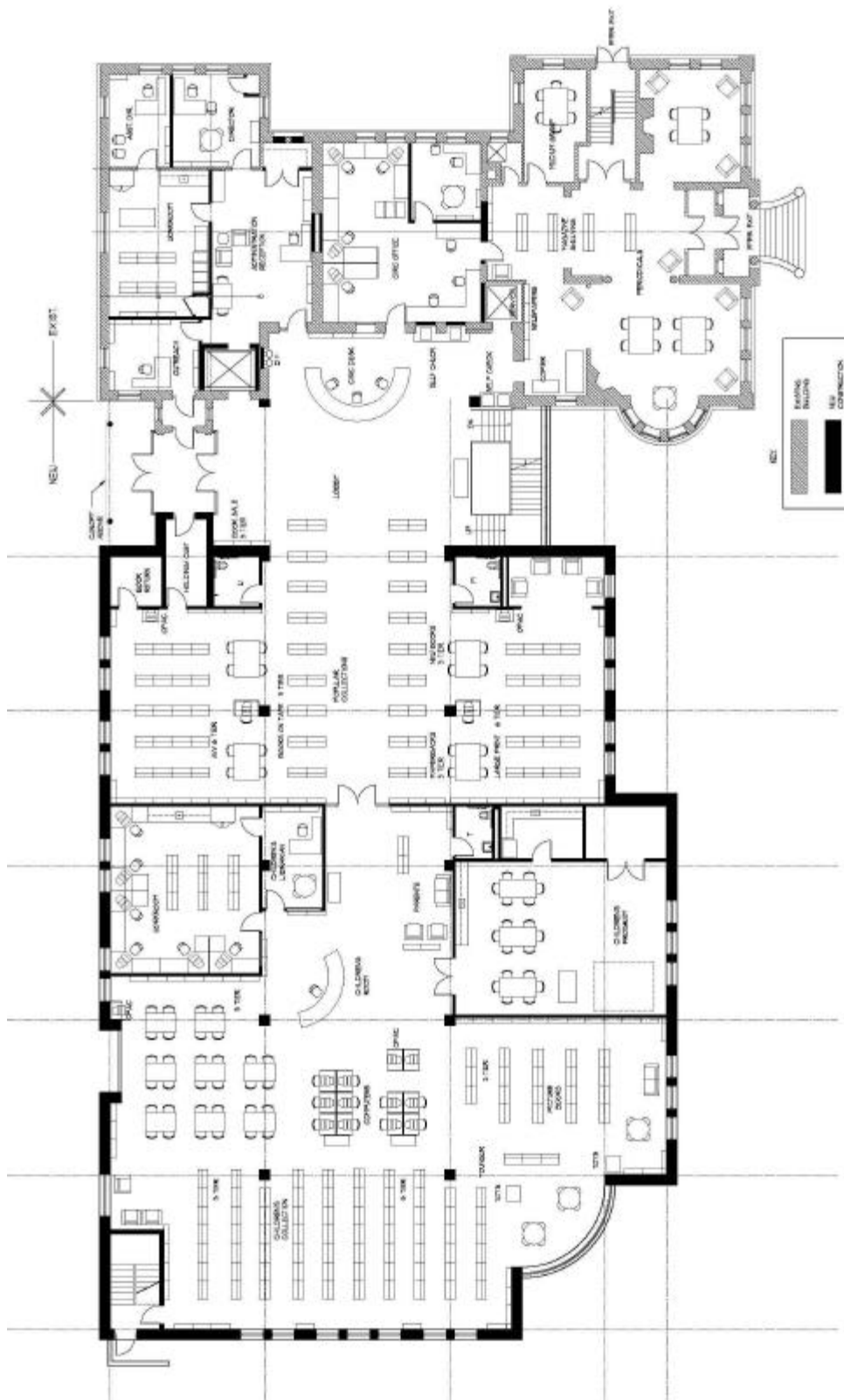
WHAT'S THE BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY?

This is the easy part! The newly renovated library will include:

- ✓ A spacious and welcoming children's room
- ✓ A new teen area on top floor, with space for study, group work, computers...
- ✓ Resolution of all those "building problems"
- ✓ Comfortable quiet study and reading areas
- ✓ Expanded parking
- ✓ More seating and reading spaces, more public computer access
- ✓ Environmentally sound exhibit spaces for historical collections, that users can access
- ✓ Meeting rooms for library and community needs
- ✓ Adequate staff and storage spaces
- ✓ An additional 20,000 square feet
- ✓ A state grant to help to cover more than 30% of the project cost

FIRST FLOOR OF THE PROPOSED BUILDING...

To see the full plans, please stop by the library or visit the Library website at <http://www.shrewsbury-ma.gov/library>



What does the library mean to residents?
Here's an answer from one of our longtime patrons...

"I often wonder how many thousands of books, records, DVDs I've checked out of the Shrewsbury Public Library since my first visit in 1963. Over the past 42 years my appreciation of this place has grown. My children and grandson are cardholding members and I look forward to my almost daily visits to take advantage of all that awaits me."

Paul German
April 6, 2005

